

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 00461 131427Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 PM-07 OMB-01

EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 MC-02 SCCT-02 SAM-01

SAB-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 131203Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3418

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, UR

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF RUSSIAN ARMS SHIPMENT IN HODEIDA

JIDDA PASS USDAO

1. ACCORDING SAUDI MILATT COL. GHUFAYLI, WHO IS WELL INFORMED SOURCE ON MILITARY MATTERS, LONG PROMISED SHIPMENT OF RUSSIAN MILITARY SPARE PARTS AND REPLACEMENTS FINALLY ARRIVED IN HODEIDA MARCH 3 ABOARD THREE SOVIET VESSELS. ACCORDING GHUFAYLI MAJOR ITEMS WERE:

- A. THREE LATER MODEL MIG-17'S AND THREE SPARE ENGINES
- B. TEN T-34 TANKS AND THREE SPARE ENGINES
- C. EIGHT MOBILE WORKSHOPS
- D. ONE THOUSAND MACHINE GUNS WITH AMMUNITION
- E. AMMUNITION FOR 37MM AAA GUNS
- F. "LARGE" QUANTITY SPARE PARTS

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PAGE 02 SANAA 00461 131427Z

2. COMMENT. RELATIVELY MODEST QUANTITIES THIS SHIPMENT ARE UNLIKELY
TO COMPENSATE FOR EQUIPMENT DESTROYED OR WORN-OUT PAST
3-4 YEARS WHEN SOVIETS SUPPLIED ALMOST NOTHING. IT WOULD SEEM
TO BE MINIMUM AMOUNT SOVIETS DEEM THEY NEED TO PROVIDE
TO MAINTAIN PRIMACY IN MILITARY SPHERE IN FACE SAUDI SHIPMENTS,
ARRIVAL OF JORDANIAN ARMORED CARS AND ADVISERS, AND ACCEPTANCE
OF 95 YEMENI OFFICERS FOR TRAINING IN IRAN.
NEWTON

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